

News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



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DES Grant Benefits Wason Pond in Chester

Concord, NH - The Town of Chester recently completed shoreline restoration work at the town-owned Wason Pond Conservation and Recreation Area with the assistance of local volunteers and a Watershed Assistance Grant from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (DES) for \$4,355.

The grant funds, volunteers and a local excavation company all supported the restoration of shoreline areas on Wason Pond. The property had been previously used as a commercial campground prior to the town acquiring it in 2001. The shoreline had been severely impacted by heavy use of campsites, resulting in compacted soil and eroded banks. Wetlands were also impacted by the campground from roads and fill.

“There was barely any vegetation on some shore areas, beaches had been developed and bulkheads and docks constructed,” said Greg Lowell, Chester Conservation Commission. “We wanted to replant the barren areas, remove the shore-side structures and remove disconnected sewer lines that were back-draining onto the shoreline.” These actions returned the shoreline to a more stable and protective natural buffer.

With grant funds, more than 750 native shrubs and trees were purchased from the New Hampshire State Nursery. In April, volunteers – many from local Girl Scout and Boy Scout troops – spent a day planting the vegetation. The shore-side structures and more than 30 old sewer pipes were removed, largely through volunteer labor and equipment provided by Henry K. White & Son Excavating of Chester. Grass was sown in eroded areas, excavation to remediate a beach staining problem and wetlands reclamation work were also performed as part of the grant-funded project.

“It is satisfying to see the idea of restoration that began with the grant application become reality,” said Natalie Landry, Coastal Watershed Supervisory, DES. “The work emphasizes the commitment of the Town of Chester and its volunteers to restoring Wason Pond water quality and safe use by residents.”

Application for the grant was made through the Town of Chester Conservation Commission. DES Watershed Assistance Grant applications are provided by the US Environmental Protection Agency under Section 319 of the Clean Water Act. For more information contact Natalie Landry at 603-559-1507 or visit this website for information about DES grant opportunities http://www.des.state.nh.us/grants_loans.htm.

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